

Ione Elementary hosts open house

Many parents and community members attended an open house recently at the Ione Elementary School as a culmination of a two-week Artist in Education program.

Every year the school participates in a state wide arts program administered by Eastern Oregon University which brings professional artists to schools to share their knowledge with students.

This year Linda Peterson of LaGrande instructed students in kindergarten through sixth grade in the various techniques in the art of weaving.

Peterson is a gifted artist who shared her water color techniques with students at the school several years ago. Because of her past experience as a classroom teacher, she was able to share her knowledge with children at various skill levels.

Fifteen parent volunteers assisted classes on a daily basis during the two-week period. This enabled students to have the direct assistance important in the intensive work of weaving.

Seventy-two students produced a finished weaving project which made a colorful display at the school "art gallery".

Teachers commented that the art program had been greatly enjoyed by the students and was a useful enrichment of their curriculum.



First graders Brandi Hong and Brianna Peterson



Linda Peterson with kindergartener Tanner Rietmann

Local piano student wins competition

Amy Jepsen, a local piano student, was recently a winner in the Jr. Bach Festival held in Pendleton.

The competition included students from Morrow and Umatilla counties. The Bach Festival is sponsored by the Oregon Music Teachers Association and is held each year to encourage students to play music by J. S. Bach and other baroque composers.

Amy will advance to the regional competition to be held in Hood River on Sunday, February 21.

Amy is the daughter of Bill and Nancy Jepsen of Heppner. She is taught piano by Myrna Van Cleave.

Sinspiration scheduled

A community singspiration will be held at the Christian Life Center, 535 W. Morgan St., Sunday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend as different congregations gather to sing praises and offer thanksgiving to God.

A special time of prayer will be held concerning those directly involved in the shutdown of the Kinzua mill. Some will come ready to sing special numbers.

A time of fellowship with snacks, juice and coffee will follow the singing.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business:

Ron Gene McDowell, 54, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Rule, 73 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$72 fine;

Lee Ephrem, 54, Portland-Driving on Closed Road (Regulated Hunting Area), \$75 fine;

Howard L. Breidenbach, 25, Heppner-Expired Plates, \$54 fine; Darin E. Tweed, 31, Salem-No State Waterfowl Validation, \$77 fine;

Brian R. Borlet, 33, Beaverton-Hunting Ducks Closed Season, \$57 fine;

Scott L. Friderich-No Signed Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp, \$77 fine;

Robert Craig Maker, 23, Beaverton-Giving False Information to a Police Office for a Citation, \$626 fine, Discarding Trash within 100 yards of Water, \$74 fine, Theft II, 180 days in jail, \$826 fine, jail sentence and \$200 suspended with no violation of probation on the charges of burglary and rape.

Heppner Garden Club to participate in show

Five years of planning, growth, and hard work has paid off for the producers of the Portland Home and Garden Show. The mission was simple, build a nationally recognized show and bring together the best in landscaping, gardening and home accessories.

Now, the final element has been added: A Standard Flower Show. The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs and the Lewis & Clark District of the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs will exhibit hundreds of specimens and displays. More than 150 clubs will participate in this first ever flower show event.

The Heppner Garden Club will participate in the show which will be held February 24-28 at the Expo center in Portland.

Jane Rawlins of the Heppner club is on the horticulture schedule committee for districts eight through 12 and will assist with placement from those districts.

This is the first time that all the Garden Clubs in Oregon will participate.

"For years patrons of the show have been requesting a floral show component where the

finest in horticulture displays could be observed," according to a news release. "They wanted the chance to learn flower arranging, see various styles of artistic crafts and see floral designs by the hundreds. Their persistence has paid off. A state show, Oregon's largest, will be staged as part of the Portland Home and Garden Show. " Nearly 4000 members will be involved in the planning and execution of this sanctioned floral competition.

The components of a sanctioned flower show this size are horticulture, education, floral design, special exhibits including educational exhibits, artistic crafts and a youth division.

The theme for the competition will be "In and Around Oregon." In some classes entrants are required to theme their entries and use plant material around several categories such as: Oregon at Play, Hood to Coast, City at Night, The Coming of Spring and Timber Days. Horticulture and floral displays will have the look and feel of Oregon natural and city areas. Imagine a simple floral design with elements from the

mountains and coast or one which reflects the colors of spring. Now imagine nearly 900 of such displays and you have a flower show of epic proportions.

HES site council meets

Heppner Elementary Site Council heard an update on the fifth and sixth grade basketball reading program at their meeting Feb. 1. At present about 50,000 minutes of reading have been recorded.

The students of Heppner Elementary School (HES) had a canned food drive recently. Eighty-one pounds of food were delivered to the Neighborhood Center.

A Dr. Seuss celebration will be held in honor of his birthday on Tuesday, March 2. Cook's choice that day will be green eggs and ham. Each teacher will do his own activities in class, perhaps story problems, graphing favorite books or older students reading to younger students.

The council was shown various newsletters from all the classes at HES. It was agreed that the newsletters are good ways to communicate with parents to inform them about what is happening in the classes.

Jannie Allen, fifth and sixth grade HES teacher, explained how the statewide writing assessments are scored and how students are taught to reach benchmarks.

Members present were Kay Chinen, Bill Karwacki, Jannie Allen, Kelly Boyer, Cindi Doherty, Kathy Cutsforth, Lorrie Fox, Karen Clough and Sharon Morris.

The next HES Site Council meeting will be Monday, March 1 in the HES staff room. The public is invited to attend.

Cardinals lose to Blue Devils

The Ione Cardinals boys' varsity stepped up to the challenge and gave the Condon Blue Devils a run for their money on Friday, February 5. The Cardinals' outstanding defense and smooth running offense kept the Cardinals hot on the heels of the Blue Devils and the Cardinals lost only by eight points, 60-68.

Ione sent Condon a message when they outscored the Blue Devils, 16-11, at the end of the first quarter. Condon retaliated, scoring 22 points in the second quarter, closing the first half at 33-32 with Condon leading by one point. Once again Ione accepted the venture by adding another 14 points in the third quarter leaving the Blue Devils trailing by one at the end.

Ione and Condon kept tying the score throughout the fourth quarter until the last two minutes of the game when Condon was able to score a total of 23 points to Ione's 14.

Mark McElligott led the Cardinals with 28 points, three from the three-point region. McElligott also led the Cardinals with 10 rebounds, two steals and two blocked shots. McElligott received help from sophomore Corey Morgan who manufactured 14 points and seven assists for the lone squad. John Ferguson had a notable defensive game for the Cardinals, grabbing five rebounds and capturing one steal from the Blue Devils. Coach Dennis Stefani said he was pleased with the entire team's performance on Friday and was "delighted to see them play exceptional team ball."

Brogue contest part of St. Pats again this year

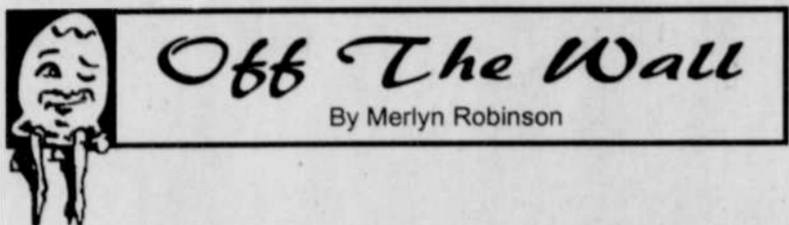
Start practicing your best Irish brogue, because once again the KUMA coffee hour during the St. Patrick's celebration will be holding the second annual Irish brogue contest.

There will be a \$50 first place cash award to the best sounding Irish man or woman. Second place will win \$30 and third place gets \$20.

Contestants will recite a poem, joke or short story and be judged by the crowd for the best Irish brogue.

All contestants will be heard on the air of KUMA radio, which broadcasts live from the Elk's Club.

Anyone wanting to enter the contest should contact David Sykes at the Heppner Gazette-Times.



Off The Wall
By Merlyn Robinson

Please don't let me burst your bubble. But if you think we're in for an early spring because the groundhog didn't see his shadow on February 2, well, there's another reason. That fat, little hedgehog would have lost all his fur if he had ventured forth that day.

Our persistent wind has blown for hard that one could sail all the way to Canada using only a bed sheet. I did see a squirrel out lately, probably getting a mid-winter snack. or maybe he blew out of his burrow. I wouldn't be surprised to see a pig flying by cushioned by all the Jim Hill Mustard stalks that have piled up on fences.

It depends on your outlook as to whether the proverbial glass is half-empty or half-full. For a snowmobiler, more winter weather is welcome. But for those of us that enjoy warmer days, it's one day closer to spring.

That little woodchuck, alias Punxsutawney Phil, isn't the only creature that likes to burrow into warm places. If you read the article about body beasts in the December issue of the National Geographic, it makes a person want to spend the rest of the time in the shower.

According to that article, the human body, especially the face, is the natural habitat for two species of mites--one in the hair follicles, and the other in the sebaceous glands. According to the author, no man is an island, we're an ecosystem. You'll be pleased to know that the two square yards of skin on the average human body is a habitat for roughly as many bacteria as there are people in the United States. And Mom always preached about washing your hands!

We like to think of ourselves as scrubbed squeaky clean, free of connection to the natural world. But there are zillions of dust mites in our pillows and carpets that feed on millions of human cells shed each day. Just what was Martha Stewart referring to when she said, "I have always been inspired by nature." Even couch potatoes shouldn't be lonely as they, too, are a haven for these low-life hangers-on. For even with soaps and medicines these mites continue to thrive.

On the brighter side, we hardly know we are carriers. There are far worse parasites that carry bubonic plague, malaria and tick-borne Lyme disease. Makes one want to rush outdoors, right? Too, I'll never lightly use the word 'nitpicking' again, which originated from picking lice nits off hair follicles and is still the best way to get rid of head lice.

Now that I've got you itching and scratching, I'll bow out. It's time to take another shower.

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